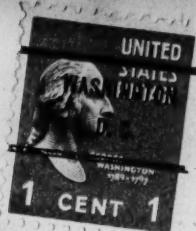


FARM LABOR NEWS

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50 Cents Per Year

Union Calls Off Three Year Old DiGiorgio Strike

The AFL National Farm Labor Union announced May 8 the ending of a strike which began at the 12,000 acres DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation, near Bakersfield, Calif., on October 1, 1947.

A picket line, which had been maintained for nearly three years, was ordered withdrawn by H. L. Mitchell, president of the union, in a telegram to Hank Hasiwar, his Western representative.

The long strike began when 1,100 of the ranch's 1,345 employees left their jobs in protest against the corporation's refusal to meet with a committee of workers for adjustment of grievances.

Work was at a standstill for several months but later new employees were hired. Mitchell said the union is launching a new organizing campaign to line up present employees.

Mitchell said in a statement:

We are just ending the first round. If it becomes necessary to strike again, we have 10,000 members in the nearby areas who can be called in to help. There will be no strike breakers brought in during the second round.

Mexicans Miffed Over Labor Deal

The Mexican government sounded off recently on the subject of its deal with this country on the importation of labor. It sounded a little peeved.

The Mexican foreign minister, in Mexico City, said that the deal was still on—as far as Mexico was concerned—and that no talks have been scheduled with the United States on the subject.

The Mexican announcement said that the joint deal between the two governments permitted 180,000 Mexicans to come into this country to work, but that contracts had only been signed for 21,000. The agreement, said Mexico, was still in force—and where were the contracts for the rest of them?

Several thousands Mexicans, banked up at the border, had to be sent back to their homes by the Mexican government. Other thousands merely walked across the line, without the formality of a government contract.

Small Crop

"The worst crop failure I ever saw was back in '98, said the old-timer. "The corn crop that year was almost nothing. One day Mother cooked some for dinner and Father ate 14 acres at one sitting."

FARM LABOR UNION ENTERS PUERTO RICO



ORGANIZER LARA GETS ASSIGNED

The National Farm Labor Union has extended its work to the island of Puerto Rico, a U. S. Territory off the southeast coast of Florida. Carl Lara, a young Spanish-speaking American from Salinas, California, was recently appointed an organizer by William Green, President of the A. F. of L., and assigned to the National Farm Labor Union. Lara left for San Juan, the capital city of Puerto Rico on May 1st.

Before his present appointment, Lara has actively assisted the NFLU organizers in his home state and was president of the Salinas Central Labor Union. Prior to World War II he was engaged in agricultural work in the Imperial Valley of California. He also served as a representative of the Painters Union and the Electrical Workers.

In making the announcement of the appointment, H. L. Mitchell, President of the NFLU said, "There are 100,000 sugar cane and mill workers employed in Puerto Rico who are eligible for membership in the NFLU. Many of these workers are already in the AFL being in the local unions operating directly under the Free Federation of Workingmen, an AFL affiliate having the status of a state federation of labor in the States."

"Our first job is to get these workers to come into our national union. While it is not our objective to raid any union belonging to the CIO which has recently entered Puerto Rico, it should be pointed out that the basic industry of the Island is sugar cane production. The CIO does not have an agricultural union in its ranks since the Communist controlled Food and Tobacco Workers Union was thrown out last year. Since the AFL has all the sugar beet and cane refinery workers in its ranks, all sugar workers should also come into the NFLU.

Organizer Lara was told to work closely with the AFL leaders in the Free Federation and to seek at all times to bring the wage and hour levels of the Island's agricultural workers to the level of those in the United States. The goals of the AFL unions in Puerto Rico are to establish a minimum wage of not less than 75c an hour and to bring a full extension of the Wage and Hour Law to the Island. Lara will represent agricultural workers at all hearings concerning wages and working conditions held by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the Sugar Control Act. He will press for top wages prevailing in the States.

Lara was instructed to cooperate with governmental agencies and other bona fide groups in recruiting and placing Puerto Rican workers on farm jobs on the Mainland. Puerto Ricans are American citizens and cannot be mistreated and exploited the way Mexican Nationals and British West Indians are. Puerto Ricans who are Union members when they come to the United States will be represented by the Union in their dealings with employers.

Meanwhile the NFLU will also press for legislation beneficial to agricultural workers in Puerto Rico as it has elsewhere in the United States and its possessions.

Union Stops Bill To Import Labor

The Anderson Bill to permit unrestricted immigration of foreign agricultural workers has been held up in the Senate as a result of the strong letter sent by President H. L. Mitchell to each of the United States Senators.

The measure, supported by the big industrial farmers of the Nation and sponsored by Senator Clinton S. Anderson, called for the opening of the border to any Mexican citizen who applied for admission in order to engage in farm work.

The bill was on the calendar in the Senate. It was ready to pass without opposition when the Union got busy. Senator Matthew Neely, pro labor Senator from West Virginia, raised his objections and managed to hold up the bill. Although the measure is not dead and can be brought up for passage on unanimous consent. The Union is watching the bill and will fight it until it is defeated for good.

Workers May Strike On Cotton Wage

Fresno County members of the National Farm Labor Union will stay away from their jobs May 15 morning unless the growers meet the union's request for an 85 cent wage for chopping the cotton crop this year.

W. A. Swearingen, the organizer for the union and a member of the union's agricultural wage policy committee, announced the strike deadline and said the strike was the only alternative to an 85 cent hourly wage.

Follows Union Meeting

The notice of the strike followed by a week the union's valleywide wage setting conference held in

Swearingen said the new rate demanded has been widely publicized and any or all strike action earlier had been suspended in hope the growers, in the interest of fair play, would find the request agreeable.

The official explained checks in the field indicate there exists on the part of most growers a determined resistance to the union demand.

"This is difficult for us to understand," Swearingen said, "especially since one of the farming industry's principal mouthpieces, the San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Labor Bureau, is the source for statement that California's average farm labor wage is 88 cents an hour."

Mass meetings of farm workers protesting the current 65 and 70 cent chopping wage are scheduled for West Fresno, Selma, Laton, Mendota and Firebaugh.

Social Security For Farm Workers?

The Senate Finance Committee has announced its recommendations for revision of the Social Security Act, among which is a proposal to include some workers employed in agriculture. The provision to include agricultural workers under an old age and survivors insurance program states that such workers shall be employed for at least 60 days during any calendar quarter during the year by a single employer in order to qualify. The Committee also recommends that sharecroppers, who are essentially wage workers, be included under this provision.

Pensions for a Few Leave Out 2 Million

Under the Committee's recommendations it is estimated that approximately 600,000 hired hands on farms, employed on a year-round basis, will be included. About 200,000 sharecroppers will also be covered. There are, however, an average of 2,500,000 agricultural workers on the nation's farms. During seasons of peak employment the number reaches nearly four million.

Workers on Large Farms Excluded

H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union sent a letter to all pro-labor Senators pointing out that under the Committee's plan employees of the large farms of the West and South would be excluded. It should be pointed out that nearly half of the nation's agricultural workers are employed on such farms, which are usually devoted to specialty crops requiring large numbers of workers during the peak harvest season only. Because there is a constant shifting of workers from one farm to another, it is doubtful if any of these workers could be covered on the basis of the Committee's recommendation of 60 days employment in any calendar quarter by one employer.

In the South there is a decided trend toward wage labor on large plantations. It is most likely that plantation owners will speed up the process of eliminating sharecropping to avoid any responsibility for providing social security for such workers. By instituting a system of rotating workers and exchanging labor, the cotton plantations can easily circumvent coverage of their employees.

Farm Bureau Plan?

The NFLU's President said he believed that the Farm Bureau and other big farmer organizations had worked out this plan so that all of the workers on the large scale industrial farms would be left out.

Union Submits Plan To Cover More Workers

In order to provide greater coverage of persons solely dependent on agricultural work, it was suggested that the limitation be revised to provide

Mid-South News

By Rev. A. C. Churchill

The campaign for 50,000 members in the Mid-south in 1950 has gotten underway with fine results. Jonesboro, Ark., under the leadership of W. M. Tanner and assisted by vice-president Betton and A. C. Churchill, Minister to Labor, is one of the bright spots. A new local recently organized in Blytheville, Arkansas, may soon rival Jonesboro as a center of Union activity. The Brinkley-Biscoe area has again become active under leadership of L. B. Armstrong and vice-president Betton. Several good meetings have been held and an organizing committee has been set up in Edmundson, Ark. Many new applications have come in from this area through the efforts of Ike Shaw. On May 8th, the Pine Bluff local reopened its office at 111½ East 4th Street, and a telephone will soon be installed. Secretary Leon Baker of Local 248 has sent in a large number of applications.

The Arkansas State Federation of Labor's annual convention was held in Ft. Smith, on May 15th through 17th. All locals in Arkansas are urged to affiliate with their nearest central labor body and with the State Federation.

The Tennessee Federation of Labor's annual convention was held in Memphis, May 1-3. In a report to the convention, Jimmy Goings, Secretary to the Memphis Central Trades and Labor Council commended the Agricultural and Millworkers Local 252 for a 100% increase in membership. A. C. Churchill represented Local 252 at the convention. All members of Local 252 should send their contributions of \$2 to the A. F. of L.'s political education fund. Over \$800 was raised from the delegates on the floor of the convention for this fund to defeat labor's enemies and reward its friends.

Undecided

"To what do you attribute your long life?" the reporter asked the centenarian.

"I don't rightly know yet," replied the old timer. "I'm still dickering with two breakfast food companies."

Not for Publication

In a radio quiz program a competitor was asked: "What did Humpty-Dumpty sit on?"

She blushed and said: "I know but I don't like to say it over the air."

that all agricultural workers employed by one or more employers for a period of 60 days in any three months of the year be covered by old age and survivors insurance.

As an alternative suggestion the NFLU advised that the 60 day period in any calendar quarter for a single employer be cut to 40 days. Although this would not give complete coverage, it would provide for approximately twice the number of agricultural workers as under the Committee's proposal, applying to a large extent to workers employed on large scale industrial type farms of the South and West.

California News

By William Becker

With the beginning of the growing season in the San Joaquin Valley of California the Locals of the National Farm Labor Union shot into action. In Kern County potatoes are the big early crop. There the Union started a campaign for a square deal for potato pickers, demanding:

1) the hiring of local residents first;

2) the elimination of wetbacks from the potato fields,

3) an honest stub, or holding the weight pickers are required to put in each bag to no more than 55 lbs.

The Union was able to bring public and official attention to the problem of an honest weight by presenting the issue to the Kern County Board of Supervisors with the request that they get the growers to sit down and work out a system for keeping the stubs honest. The importance of the demand for an honest weight was made clear by the Union when it pointed out that the picker who was, as a result of the Union campaign, putting only 55 lbs. in a stub instead of 65 or 70 lbs. as demanded last year, was earning at least \$1.50 more per day. This "wage increase" has been won by the Union largely through public pressure and the co-operation of many government agencies.

The latest news from the Kern County potato fields is that the stubs continue to be more honest than they were last year in most of the fields. One labor contractor with a notorious record for chiseling discovered that the Union would fight when called upon after a four hour work stoppage was entirely successful. The contractors are the ones who gain from the overweight sacks since they get paid by the ton for the potatoes. An additional number of contractors have signed contracts with the Union and many have agreed to a system for keeping stubs down. Many growers and growers' organizations have co-operated. Meanwhile, the Union is policing the fields and acting on complaints against contractors by Union pickers.

Union Demands 85c Hour for Cotton Chopping

The NFLU has found many different rates in effect in cotton chopping in California San Joaquin Valley. At a special Valley organizing Council on May 7th the delegates from all locals in the Valley voted to set an 85c an hour minimum for cotton choppers. Although some of the growers are already paying this rate, many other are paying lower wages.

Unless the rate is increased before May 15th, the Fresno County Locals will strike. In other areas too strikes against some of the low-paying farmers or contractors are possible unless rates go up.

Senator Byrd Pays Dollar Bonus for All Night Work

Dixiecrat Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia, a firm believer of economy in government, carries his economy into the operation of his huge apple orchards. The Senator hires 250 men year around for the princely sum of 55c an hour to work his 40,000-tree apple orchard. During a late freeze recently, 110 of these men were called upon to work all night to save the Senator's apple crop. The farm workers on the night shift got an extra bonus of one dollar a piece.

The Senator is the largest apple grower in the United States, if not in the world. His son, also a reactionary machine politician operates his own apple orchard of over 10,000 trees.

California Union Members In Politics Now

NFLU Locals in the San Joaquin Valley have been active recently in politics. The Union has been campaigning vigorously for James Roosevelt for Governor, Helen Gahagan Douglas for U. S. Senator, Ardis Walker for Congress (from Kern, Tulare and Kings Counties,) and for Joe C. Lewis and Walley Henderson for Assembly. Many meetings for these and some other approved local candidates have been organized. The large number of farm workers who are now registered to vote will cast a large block of votes for these and other progressive candidates.

Alien Hiring Ban Asked

SAN DIEGO—Make it illegal for American farmers to hire aliens who do not have proper papers and the flood of Mexican "wetbacks" into California will be greatly reduced, J. S. Castillo, publisher of El Regional of Mexicali, Mexico, said here recently.

"Let California pass a law making it illegal for a farmer to employ an alien who does not possess papers showing that he has approval.

"At present the American farmer gives preference to 'wetbacks' because he is not required to employ them under contract. When he hires a Mexican under contract he must keep him for a specified time. But he can keep a 'wetback' one, two or three days and let him go."



Politics Dirty?

Although the November elections are months away, the primaries are getting into full swing and nearly everyone who hopes to get elected this autumn already is in the race.

So it's time you got in, too, and started listening to the campaign talk. You won't like some of it, but don't let the nonsense and the mud-slinging scare you away.

Remember that Americans take the attitude that all is fair in love, war—and politics. We don't hold that this is a good tradition, but you won't change it by declaring politics is no place for a woman. That's like saying you will have nothing to do with democracy.

Also remember that during most of our history it has been easier to get Americans out to vote AGAINST something than to vote FOR something. Some candidates feel they have to mudsling to get people to the polls.

The other day we heard President Truman say that he has great confidence in women as citizens. He believes they can help make and keep the peace.

We need to have a little more confidence in ourselves. Don't let's forget that Hitler came to power in a country where women didn't have the vote.

Speaking of forgetting, is your state one of those with a May or June primary?

You Owe It to You

Promise yourself that when the Social Security Act is enlarged and amended—and it looks like soon now—you will write L.L.P.E. for a digest of the bill and learn what's in it for sure.

According to experts at the Social Security Board, the present law is one everyone assume he knows but rarely does.

If it weren't for undertakers, for

instance, not half the people would know that close relatives who help pay burial costs of an insured worker are entitled to collect for part of the expense. As it is, only a fraction of those entitled to this money ever apply for it.

Under the revised law, it is proposed that other than close relatives can get the money—if they helped defray funeral expenses. The sum available is three times the worker's primary monthly benefit.

Much Married

Americans are more married today than ever before in our history. That is, 67 per cent of all adults over 14 are living in what we trust is wedded bliss. Sixty years ago, only 53 per cent were. Today's average husband, to give you an extra statistic, is 3 years older than his wife.

Women of the Jury

Three states have accepted women for jury service during the past year. Only nine states now bar the ladies. They are: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Texas and Oklahoma. Twenty states compel them to serve, when eligible, and eighteen have a voluntary type of service. A woman can be excused if her home or family needs her at the moment.

Indio Local Adopts Union Label

Products of farms near Indio, California, that have contracts to hire Union labor will be stamped with the official seal of the National Farm Labor Union. In this way the public can know that its food is produced by Union labor and is in a position to refuse to buy anything not marked with the seal which says, "grown and packed by the NFLU, Local 270, Indio, California." This idea was contributed by Elmer Glidewell, a member of Local 270 and was immediately approved by Organizer W. L. Blackstone.

Dollars for Scents

En route to take Mandy out on their Saturday night date, Rastus had stopped at the barber shop to acquire some sartorial embellishments. When he finally knocked on Mandy's door, she smiled, sniffed emphatically, and said, "Boy, you smell like a barber-pole cat!"

DAIRY MENS NEWS

Dairy Farmers Meet Adopt Program Map Organizing Drive

A Dairy Farm Organizing Council was set up by the National Farm Labor Union A. F. of L. at a meeting of its local unions in this industry on May 27th in New York City. Delegates from local unions in New Jersey, New York and Louisiana were in attendance at the conference. Persons attending the meeting were: Henry Hoffman, Newton, N. J.; Josephine Barbay, Andover, N. J.; Bernard Duval, Mooer's Forks, N. Y.; L. N. Gregory, Ellenburg Center, N. Y.; Frank Johnson, Little Falls, N. Y.; Charles Barbay, Andover, N. J.; George Hough, Mooer's Forks, N. Y.; Mrs. L. N. Gregory, Ellenburg Center, N. Y.; Loretto N. Gregory, Ellenburg Center, N. Y.; H. L. Mitchell, Washington, D. C.; John Fee, Newton, N. J.; Oscar Slade, Angie, La.; Albert J. Calhoun, Fonda, N. Y.; Herman Miller, Randall, N. Y.; Joe Phares, Franklinton, La.; I. Lee Parker, Amite, La.; Lewis J. Alford, Amite, La.; Basil Negoescu, Clinton, N. Y.; Edwin C. Mitchell, New York City, Dorothy Dowe, Washington, D. C. Also attending the conference were A.F.L. Regional Director Samuel L. Isard and Organizer Frank Luberti.

The following were appointed as members of the Dairy Farm Organizing Council by H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union: New Jersey—Charles Barbay, Henry Hoffman; New York—L. N. Gregory, Frank Johnson, L. M. Allen; Louisiana—Oscar Slade, Louis Alford.

Organizers I. Lee Parker and Edwin C. Mitchell were designated as representatives of the National Farm Labor Union to work with the dairy-men in extending organization throughout the New York and New Orleans milkshed areas.

The following program was adopted by the delegates from the dairy farm locals as a basis on which the Organizing Council will work:

1. The Union proposes to secure for its members prices for their products that will make it possible for them to remain in business and earn a decent living for their families.
2. The Union proposes to protect its members in the security of their markets and to prevent discrimination against its members by any processor or distributor, or any association or group operating in the dairy industry.
3. Toward the above ends the Union will encourage its locals to enter into bargaining conferences with and to work out contractual relations with processors or distributors of the products of the labor of its members.
4. The Union will work for the ending of the present system of classifications of dairy products so that the producer will secure a fair price for the milk he produces.
5. The Union will seek to work out at an early date a plan in co-operation with other American Federation of Labor unions, whereby a union label may be placed on all dairy products produced, processed, delivered and sold by union members, which shall be a guarantee to the consumer that the dairy product is produced and sold under union conditions from the farm to the consumer.
6. The Union will encourage all locals to set up their own laboratories for the purpose of making tests to determine butter content and bacteria count in their milk, with the idea of trying to make possible delivery of milk of superior quality for sale to consumers.
7. The National Farm Labor Union will promote the adequate enforcement of state laws regarding weights and testing of butter fat content, and also the enforcement of existing state health laws for the protection of producers as well as consumers.

7 Big Corporations Set All-Time Records

Seven giant corporations set all-time net profits records last year, and one had its best year since 1929.

The seven which made more money than ever before after paying all taxes and expenses are:

Bethlehem Steel.
The Borden Co.
Du Pont.
General Electric.
General Foods.
General Motors.
Westinghouse.

United States Steel Corp. made bigger earnings last year than in any year since '29.

Is that socialism?

Borden Sets Record

In 1949 the Borden Co., which is the second biggest dairy and controls one fifth of the net capital assets of the milk industry, made a net profit of \$21.9 million.

That's an all-time record. It is \$2.8 million more than the company's previous high year, 1948, when earnings were \$19.1 million.

Yet in 1949 net income of farmers was 17 per cent less than in 1948. The comparable figures are \$13.8 billion and \$16.7 billion.

Only Heaven Knew

Pastor: "Good morning, Sonny. I hear the Lord has sent you two little twin sisters."

Sonny: "Yes, sir, and he's the only one who knows where the money's coming from, too. Daddy said so."

Farm Labor News

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More Wetbacks—Less Green Backs for U. S. Farm Workers

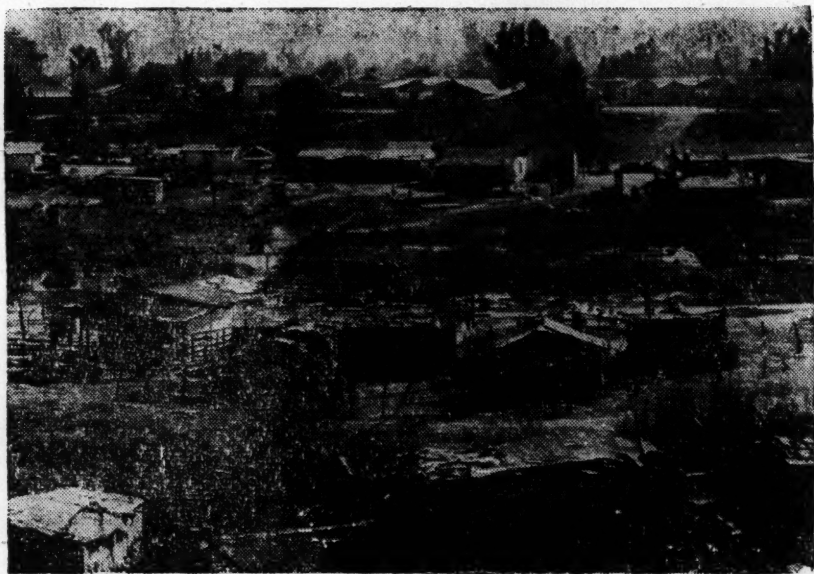
The U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service reports for April 1950 show that 21,000 illegal aliens who crossed the U. S. —Mexican border seeking jobs on California's farms were arrested and sent back to Mexico. How many more thousands of wetbacks escaped the poorly manned border patrol is unknown. How many aliens have crossed into Texas, New Mexico and Arizona is also unknown.

The International Agreement for importation of labor made by the government of the United States and Mexico is largely responsible for this invasion. The many thousands of poverty stricken Mexicans who come to the border seeking to enter the U. S. in order to get the "high paid farm jobs" is traced to the fact that the word has gotten out in the faraway Mexican villages that a poor peon need merely to get to the border in order to be hired. The Mexican sells his possessions and heads north where he finds thousands of his fellow-countrymen waiting to enter the U. S. also. He cannot return home, so he crosses the border and hopes that the law does not catch him.

The big farmers welcome the starving wetback. They fire their American workers and hire the wetback for far less money. Often the poor Mexican's wages are merely promises with no pay. Then when the work is finished someone tips off the Law and the wetback is thrown back into Mexico again. Both the American citizen and the Mexican are victimized for the profit of the big farmers.

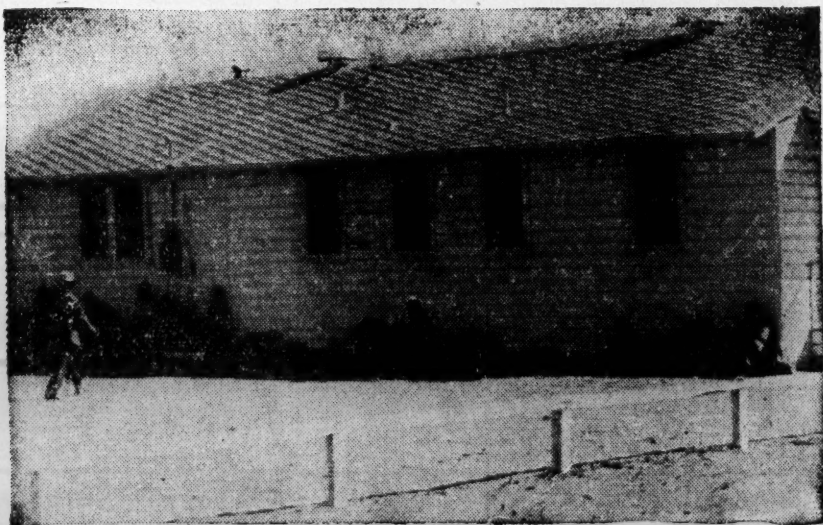
All along the border, from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas to the Imperial Valley of California the wetback competes directly with the Spanish-speaking American. The native American of Mexican descent, the Negro farm worker and the white Anglo-American resent his coming. It means they must leave their homes and look for other work while the illegal alien gets the job.

Wetback Invasion Begins Here



A typical town in Mexico is shown above. The U. S. Congress recently adopted Point Four of President Truman's International Program, part of which promises aid to our Central and South American neighbors. Here is where it should begin. This poverty, slums and starvation is the only life the Mexican worker knows and is why he violates both his law and our law by crossing the border. He hears that 40c an hour is paid for farm work in the United States so he heads North.

Wetback Headquarters



The wetback usually heads for the Valley Association offices to be assigned to a job on one of the large ranches. Sometimes he must lie around and wait near the Valley Association offices until he is sent out to work for a few cents an hour. Often he isn't even paid what is promised to him. Also the wetback gets jobs in other trades, wherever he goes he forces out American citizens, and cuts labor standards built up by the Unions.

The Wetback Heads North



Near the border the Mexican may walk down the highway carrying his suitcase, looking for a job on a big farm where wages are "high" compared to the few cents a day he makes in Mexico. One American dollar is worth eight Mexican pesos (the Mexican dollar).

Evicted by Wetbacks



For every Mexican worker who crosses the border an American family loses out. Here is a family evicted from its home because the employer hires wetbacks for less wages than an American can live on. The big farmer operators have worked out a new pattern of farm employment. "If you live nearby, you aren't wanted. If you have a family you can't work on my farm. I want cheap labor from Old Mexico. I can hire wetbacks for half and less than I would pay an American worker." There is no discrimination in who is fired. An American of Mexican descent gets no more consideration than an American Okie or an American Negro.